

WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL 800 MHz COMMUNICATION SYSTEM
800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday ~ September 17, 2015 ~ 10:00 a.m.

**REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
5195 SPECTRUM BOULEVARD, RENO, NEVADA**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL (Non-action item)

Chair Sommers called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Richard Brooks – Nevada Department of Transportation; Richard Burger - Nevada Department of Transportation, DPS; Clay Griffin – Washoe County Sheriff's Office; Ray Guzman – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; Jon Kelley – Washoe County Sheriff's Office; Rob Larson – City of Reno; Tim Leighton - Sierra Fire Protection District; Duane Meyer – Washoe County Sheriff's Office; Thomas Moore – Nevada Department of Transportation; Tracy Moore – Washoe County School District; Keith Mullen – City of Sparks; Jason Reynolds – Truckee Meadows Community College; Mike Shaffer – Washoe County School District; Ryan Sommers – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Paul Wiley – City of Reno; and Teresa Wiley – City of Sparks. James Hawthorne – University of Nevada, Reno, joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

ABSENT: Lance Avansino – Reno Sparks Indian Colony; Steve Baker – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Bryan Boren – Veterans Affairs; Mike Brown – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Jeff Byrne – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Bonnie Conder – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority; David Curtis – Nevada Air National Guard; Geoff Daforno – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Pat Dyer – City of Sparks; Mike Henry – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Greg Herrera – Washoe County Sheriff's Office; Dan Johnston – Truckee Meadows Community College; Chris Ketring – Sierra Fire Protection District; Pat Lee – Washoe County Sheriff's Office; Anthony Masten – Nevada Air National Guard; Charles Moore – Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District; Pat Nielson – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Todd Renwick – University of Nevada, Reno; and Jason Trevino – Washoe County School District.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-action item)

Jake Conely expressed his appreciation to the board for their work and his pleasure at having been a part of the process. Mr. Conely noted that before he retired a class on traffic safety during emergency operations on highways and freeways, the radio interoperability was a single slide that the instructor covered with the remark "this will never happen". Mr. Conely noted that the technology is in place and an operations training programs needs to be developed.

David Watts-Vial – Deputy District Attorney, joined the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MAY 7, 2015 MINUTES (For possible action)

Hearing no public comment Chair Sommers asked for Board discussion or a motion.

It was moved by Teresa Wiley, seconded by Duane Meyer, to approve the May 7, 2015, minutes, as submitted. MOTION CARRIED.

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- 4. ADDING BEON/P25 RADIOS** [For possible action] – *An informational update review, discussion and possible direction to staff on requests that have been made by member agencies about the cost of adding new BEON/P25 units to the system.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, provided an overview of the NEON/P25 capabilities noting that existing communications system can accommodate up to 500 devices. Mr. Tayler explained that while this option is not recommended for law enforcement, fire personnel and first responders, it provide radio access to other users using a cellular device or specialized device. Mr. Tayler noted that a license is needed for the service and that a question had been raised about backbone buy-in costs. The intent is to determine what, if any, interest there may be in using this particular feature and whether a recommendation should be sent forward to the JOC (Joint Operating Committee) to develop pricing, access and appropriate language for the Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Tayler pointed out that the BEON/P25 did not impact the dwindling number of LID's (Logical Identification Number). The BEON/P25 is hosted using the VIDA (Voice, Interoperability, Data, and Access) rather than the EDACS (Enhanced Digital Access Communications System)

Chair Sommers asked that this be added to the November meeting agenda.

No specific action was taken.

- 5. LID (Logical Identification Number) STATUS UPDATE** [For possible action] – *An ongoing review, discussion and possible recommendation to recommend that the 800 MHz Joint Operation Committee (JOC) approve, deny or otherwise modify recommendations to resolve LID issues with WCRCS (Washoe County Regional Communications System) Users.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, commented that as of this morning (September 17, 2015) only 79 LID's (Logical Identification Number) were available for use. Mr. Tayler pointed out that a minimum of 50 LID's will be utilized by various agencies and that a list has been compiled of radios that have not been active. Mr. Tayler also noted that as new dispatch consoles were deployed 1 LID per talk group will be used. Mr. Tayler emphasized that as older radios are discovered by member agencies that they should not be activated without first contacting the Washoe County Radio Shop or his office so that it can be determined if the radio can be used or needs to be returned.

No specific action taken.

- 6. SYSTEM STATUS UPDATE** (Non-action item) – *An informational update on the operational status of the 800 MHz Communication System.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, drew attention to the report (copy on file) and noted that there is a slight increase in system use. Mr. Tayler noted that winterization of the mountain peaks has started including generating systems maintenance and 700 MHz upgrades to the Peavine and Red Peak sites. The Water Tank and Snow Flake sites in the Tahoe Basin are awaiting DC power conversions.

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- 7. AREAS OF LIMITED COMMUNICATIONS** [For possible action] – *An informational update review, discussion and possible direction to staff on the recently purchased P-25 Phase 2 equipment to cover the Rancho Haven/Red Rock Road and other areas.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, summarized action taken to purchase the P25 Phase 2 small scale upgrade to address communications issues in the Rancho Haven/Red Rock area. It is anticipated that the equipment will be delivered in October 2015 with coverage improvements around the first of the year (2016). Mr. Tayler noted that an additional fourth channel is still an option. The system is being staged at the Harris Offices in Las Vegas, Nevada. The system will allow for four (4) simultaneous conversations due to its being equipped with three channels.

No specific action was taken.

- 8. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND RADIO UPDATE** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible direction to staff on the change-over to newer technology radio system and radios as current models are being phased out.*

Shawn Tayler – Regional Communications Coordinator, reminded member agencies that as radios are being replaced, the new radios should be P25 capable so that the investment carries over to the new system. Mr. Tayler noted that some mobile radios have been in use since 2001 and that it is hoped that the new equipment will provide similar longevity.

Tracy Moore noted that Washoe County School District is looking for guidance as to what may be needed to upgrade existing BDA (Bi-Directional Amplifier) in the region's schools for the incoming P25 system.

Mr. Tayler commented that some of the existing BDA's may be upgradable with other perhaps moving to the 700 MHz band. Mr. Tayler explained that staff would be working with vendors and member agencies to determine what changes may be needed.

Tim Leighton outlined a recent issue with recently purchased radios that needed to be recollected after distribution and returned to the manufacturer.

Mr. Tayler noted that he did not have any specific information on what the issues were.

Craig Harrison – Harris, noted that he had not been made aware of any issues either.

Gary Beekman stated he would research the issue and provide a response to Mr. Leighton.

- 9. 800 MHZ USERS COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** (Non-action item) – *No discussion among 800 MHz Users Committee members will take place on this item. The next regular meeting is scheduled on November 19, 2015.*

Chair Sommers noted that he would not be able to attend the November 19, 2015, meeting.

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The November 19, 2015, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to: 1) an Update on the RFP (Request for Proposal) process for the P25 Phase 2 System – Tom Moore NDOT (Nevada Department of Transportation).

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-action item)

There were no public comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT (Non-action item)

Chair Sommers adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

AS APPROVED BY THE 800 MHz USERS COMMITTEE IN SESSION ON NOVEMBER 19, 2015.